



# COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Counsel

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September 5, 2023

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Aaron Terr  
Director of Public Advocacy  
Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE)  
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Philadelphia, PA 19106  
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Dear Mr. Terr:

This letter responds to your August 24, 2023 letter regarding the handling of an event held in one of the meeting rooms at the Mary L. Stephens-Davis Branch Library ("Library") on August 20, 2023. The County Librarian, Diana Lopez, reached out on August 24, 2023 to the individual who reserved the rooms for the August 20<sup>th</sup> event on behalf of Moms for Liberty and offered her a refund or a credit toward a future room reservation if she opted to re-schedule the event.

The Library makes its meeting rooms available to the community on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use. As you may or may not be aware, the Library has made its meeting room available several times this year to the same individual that reserved the room for the August 20<sup>th</sup> event on behalf of Moms of Liberty. The Library believes there is significant value in providing public space for meetings and an open discussion of ideas and intends to continue offering meeting space for the community while trying to better prepare for use of meeting rooms that may result in public discussions with competing viewpoints and large crowds, as such heated events are new territory for the Library and its staff who were put in a difficult situation that Sunday afternoon. Three bomb threats to the Library following the August 20<sup>th</sup> event have unfortunately made those efforts more challenging, but I wanted to assure you that the County is reviewing the incident, the actions taken by Library staff, and our current Library policies to ensure that they are implemented in compliance with the First Amendment. While this review is ongoing, we are also working on updating the Library's policies for future events to better guide patrons, guests, and staff.

Sincerely,

Philip J. Pogledich  
County Counsel

cc: Diana Lopez, County Librarian